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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 November 1994, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 48/19 entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe". By that resolution, the Assembly noted the crucial role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in efforts to forestall aggression and violence in the Conference area by addressing the root causes of problems and to prevent, manage and settle conflicts by appropriate means, and reiterated the need for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and CSCE. The Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the Conference.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its forth-ninth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe".

3. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/19.

II. MEASURES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

4. On 26 May 1993, letters were exchanged between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman-in-Office of the Council of CSCE (see A/48/185, annexes I and II). By those letters, the signatories accepted the arrangements

described in the framework for cooperation and coordination between the two organizations (A/48/185, appendix).

5. By resolution 48/5 of 22 October 1993, the General Assembly decided to invite CSCE to participate in the sessions and work of the Assembly in the capacity of observer.

6. The observer status of CSCE and the framework agreement referred to in paragraph 4 above constitute the institutional parameters of cooperation between the United Nations and CSCE.

7. As was noted in the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation and coordination with CSCE submitted to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session (A/49/549), good contacts have been established and maintained between the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman-in-Office of CSCE and their representatives, who meet on a regular basis at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General is also represented regularly at the meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials of CSCE at Prague and in July 1994 the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs visited the offices of CSCE in Vienna and participated in valuable discussions at an informal meeting of the Permanent Committee.

8. In continuation of the informal understanding that there should be a division of labour between the two organizations, the United Nations has retained the lead in peacemaking efforts in Tajikistan and in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, while CSCE has had the lead in Nagorny Karabakh, Moldova and South Ossetia, Republic of Georgia. Specific efforts have been made to improve contacts and cooperation in the field, at the negotiating table and between the respective headquarters. These steps have resulted in better coordination and the product has been improved harnessing of the resources of the international community in the interests of the countries being assisted.

9. In the former Yugoslavia, close cooperation has continued between the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the CSCE mission resident in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Moreover, in the summer of 1994, arrangements were agreed between the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations and the Secretary-General of CSCE for UNPROFOR to provide logistic and other support to the newly established CSCE mission in Sarajevo.

10. In July 1994, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly led a high-level mission to Latvia with senior officials of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of CSCE and the Council of Europe to assist Latvia in developing a national programme for the protection and promotion of human rights. Both UNDP and CSCE as well as the Council of Europe are also working together to assist the Government of Latvia to develop a national programme for Latvian language training.

11. A practice of informal tripartite consultations between the Geneva-based United Nations programmes, CSCE and the Council of Europe has been established. For the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) are regular participants. These

meetings, the most recent of which was held in Geneva on 1 September 1994 under the chairmanship of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, provide an opportunity for the European organizations and the United Nations programmes that are active in Europe to discuss a wide range of topics related to the protection of human rights, minorities issues, the situation of refugees and economic problems within the region. At the Geneva meeting, the participants agreed that further development of cooperation between them on the basis of complementarity would be most beneficial. Such cooperation would help to make the best use of respective comparative advantages and avoid costly duplication, in particular with regard to fact-finding and other missions. These regular coordination meetings will be continued, as will the specific interactions on appropriate issues by the relevant bodies and organs of ECE, the Centre for Human Rights and UNHCR.

12. On 1 August 1994, the Secretary-General convened a special meeting of regional organizations in New York. High-level representatives of 10 organizations from the international community attended, including the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary-General of CSCE. This event provided a valuable opportunity for participants to exchange views and perceptions of the problems and challenges facing the United Nations and regional organizations. In addition, it also provided yet further occasion for individual discussions between the United Nations and CSCE at leadership level.

13. In sum, 1994 has seen further development of the practical links between the United Nations and CSCE. This cooperation and coordination will be maintained and enhanced with the aim of extracting the best possible use from the resources made available by Governments to international organizations to carry out the tasks assigned to them. The avoidance of duplicative or overlapping mandates will facilitate such cooperation and lead to effective coordination.

14. The Secretary-General has accepted the invitation of the Government of Hungary, on behalf of CSCE, to attend and address the Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the participating States that will take place in Budapest on 5 and 6 December 1994.